

# MILITARY CONTROL IS ENDED AT TULSA

Civil Law Restored, One Negro Agitator Under Arrest, Three Others Sought.

## PLOT BY NEGRO SOCIETY?

Wealthy Men of Race Say Hot-heads Were Busy Hours Before the First Clash.

*Special to The New York Times.*

TULSA, Okla., June 3.—Martial law was lifted from the city this afternoon despite the appeal of the Chamber of Commerce to Adj. Gen. Barrett, commanding the military forces, that the State troops be kept for at least a week longer. This and the arrest of one of four negro agitators, wanted for alleged fomenting of trouble among their fellows in this city, were the chief events of a day marked also by steady progress in the plans for rebuilding negro homes in the area devastated by fire during the rioting of Tuesday and Wednesday.

At the same time with these happenings reports were current of a sensational character bearing on the alleged agitation among the negroes, both on the occasion of the original outbreak on Tuesday evening and also during preceding weeks.

In respect to the doings of Tuesday, O. W. Gurley, a wealthy negro who lost property estimated at \$150,000 in the burning of the negro quarter, stated that the negroes were organizing "for two or three hours" prior to the riot at the office of The Tulsa Star, a negro newspaper. He stated that guns and ammunition were then being distributed and that runners were being sent through the district to arouse the inhabitants for the ostensible defense of the colored bootblack held at the Court House for alleged assault on a white girl.

Gurley asserted, however, that the editor of The Star exhorted the men of his race not to precipitate trouble.

Barney Cleaver, a wealthy negro peace officer, and Police Commissioner Adkinson, also made statements today tending to show that the negroes had been preparing for some time for race trouble.

Cleaver attributes the riots largely to "restless" conditions, brought about by unemployment and to the presence of large numbers of transients, including many discharged service men. He declares that a large proportion of negroes arrested were ex-service men.

**Report of a "Negro Brotherhood."**

An official who is in close touch with the military men here declared tonight that the "authorities" had evidence in their possession that organizers of "the African Blood Brotherhood" passed through Oklahoma about sixty days ago and organized a chapter of the secret society in Tulsa.

He stated that this evidence indicated that some leaders of the mob that first gathered before the Court House on Tuesday night had been identified as members of this society, which was "highly aggressive" in character, seeking to foment unrest among the negroes; that the society was national in scope and headed by a New York negro, and that it had carried on activities in other parts of Oklahoma and the Southwest.

It was said also that there was a suspicion that a store of ammunition, which exploded with the burning of the new church in the negro district, was suspected to be the arsenal of this society.

In connection with the general assertion that the negro society linked up outside sections with Tulsa, it was stated by a high police officer that the department was notified by the telephone central about 9 o'clock Tuesday night that they had intercepted a message to Muskogee, fifty-five miles distant, asking that the Muskogee negroes send 500 armed men at once to Tulsa to reinforce the local contingents. The telephone exchange reported that the Muskogee recipient of this message agreed to send all the men that could be mustered. The Tulsa police warned the Muskogee police, who put guards upon all highways and railroad lines.

The negro agitator, who is under arrest, gives his address as Taft, Okla. A wide search is being made for three others.

A tent city began to rise over the ashes of the negro district tonight. Thirty 16 by 16 army tents were up by nightfall, the first of 500 that will be pitched in the devastated area to afford temporary housing for the destitute.

Adjutant General Barrett, on leaving tonight for Oklahoma City, expressed his confidence that the city authorities would be able now to handle the situation.

Mayor Evans issued this order:

"Notice is hereby given that all men are ordered to either get a job and go

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Cleaver, a veteran police officer, who enjoys the confidence of both whites and blacks, named an alleged negro narcotic peddler as one of the principal leaders in the disturbance Tuesday night.

Cleaver said he warned the negroes that they would cause the negro section to be burned if they did not disperse and disarm. "They only laughed at me and threatened to shoot me", he added.

C. W. Gurley, probably the wealthiest negro in the city, told how he went to the office of a negro newspaper early to work, or if you have no job, work will be furnished you by applying to the Board of Welfare office. All men who have no jobs and who refuse to work will be arrested as vagrants. Compensation will be paid.

## Negroes Warned Colored Agitators.

TULSA, Okla., June 3.—As the race war excitement flickered out today, the fear which kept negro leaders silent was dispelled and they began to talk. Barney Tuesday evening and found activities far advanced.

"Men were coming in singly and in little groups," he said, "in answer to the call to arms, and guns and ammunition were being collected from every available source. Many of the men were making open threats and talking in a most turbulent manner.

"When I saw what was going on, I tried to talk them out of the idea of arming themselves to prevent what they believed was a threatened lynching, but they were in such a dangerous mood that I almost got in trouble myself.

"There were not more than forty or fifty men in the crowd of armed negroes who marched upon the Court House," Gurley went on. "They were nearly all dope users or jake drinkers with police records. However, there were a few more intelligent ones in the lead."

The Citizens' Committee of Seven at a conference discussed the request of the Governor for a searching inquiry, and decided the best plan would be to handle

the investigation through the Grand Jury. A special committee from the Bar Association, it was announced, will be appointed to co-operate with the County Attorney's staff.

An order was issued from military headquarters early in the day demanding the arrest of any one offering for recording the deed or transfers of any property in the burned district. General Barrett asserted that irresponsible persons were seeking to obtain the property at much less than its value.

The number of known dead remained at thirty today, no additional bodies having been found. The list was expected to be increased slightly by deaths of some of the several hundred wounded.

## ASKS HARDING FOR UTTERANCE

### Association for Advancement of Colored People Wants Him to Speak Out

This telegram was sent yesterday by James Weldon Johnson, Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, at 70 Fifth Avenue, to President Harding:

"The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People feels that an utterance from you at this time on the violence and reign of terror at Tulsa, Oklahoma, would have an incalculable effect not only upon that situation but upon the whole country."

BOSTON, June 3.—Governor Cox, at the request of the National Equal Rights League, forwarded to President Harding an appeal for aid for the victims of the Tulsa riots. The Governor said in his message that "citizens of Massachusetts look to you in giving aid to the afflicted, and they will stand behind you in any endeavor to punish the guilty and to make such inhuman and barbaric crimes forever impossible in this land of freedom and justice."

## FEDERAL INQUIRY ORDERED.

WASHINGTON, June 3.—A general inquiry into the race riots at Tulsa has been ordered by Attorney General Daugherty, according to an announcement today at the Department of Justice.

The purpose of the investigation, officials said, was to determine whether the disorders were in violation of Federal laws. Preliminary reports, it was added, showed that the situation was purely local.